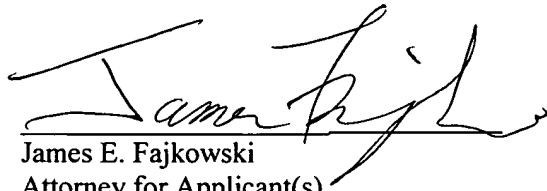


REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to add a priority claim to International Patent Application No. PCT/CA2004/002082, filed December 6, 2004, under the Patent Cooperation Treaty, which claims priority to United States Patent Application No. 10/727,857, filed December 4, 2003.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified patent application. Early favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Fajkowski", is written over a horizontal line.

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